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Memorial

OF

JOHN FOOT,

LATE CAPTAIN

In Second Regiment

OF

MINNESOTA VOLUNTEERS.

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R. E. Beardsley Esquire
with the respects of U. S. A.

Your affte Son

John Hood

JOHN FOOT,

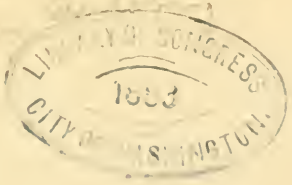
BORN AT THE CITY OF NEW YORK,

On the 30th April, 1835,

DIED AT GENEVA,

ONTARIO COUNTY,

On the 13th March, 1862.



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1862

CAPT. JOHN FOOT,

LATE OF THE

Second Reg't Minnesota Volunteers.

The life of Capt. Foot, though brief, was so useful, his death so honorable, and his character so commendable, that a memorial of him cannot fail to be acceptable to a large circle of relatives, and to many friends who esteemed and loved him in life, and lamented him in death. His example, too, will not be without its influence on his younger brothers, and the youth of the families of his relatives and friends. It may, also, extend even farther, and stimulate some of the youth of our Country to acquire, even in early manhood, distinguished names and enduring fame.

John Foot was the son of Samuel Alfred and Jane Campbell Foot. He was born on the 30th of April, 1835, in the City of New York, and was the eldest of a large family of sons and daughters. He was baptized by the Rev. W. W. Phillips, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of the City of New York, of which his parents were then members, on the 19th of June, 1835. The elements of his education were acquired in that city, and mainly at the Grammar School of the University, of which Mr. Lewis H. Hobby, was the Principal. In the Spring of 1847, his parents removed from the city to the Village

of Geneva. In that village, Mr. Walter T. Taylor, kept an excellent English and Classical School. Capt. Foot, then a youth of twelve years, entered this school, and enjoyed the faithful and efficient instruction of Mr. Taylor, from the Spring of 1847 to the Spring of 1850. By this time he was well advanced in his education, and nearly prepared to enter Williams' College, where it was intended he should receive his Collegiate Education. But being considered too young to enter college, and a practical knowledge of farming regarded as useful, he worked on his father's farm during the season of 1850. Early in November of that year, he entered the School of Messrs. B. F. & J. A. Mills, at South Williamstown, Mass., and there completed his preparation for entering Williams' College. He entered that College in September, 1851, and graduated in July, 1855. The subject of his commencement exercise was "The Earnest Man." In September, of that year, he went to the City of New York, and commenced the study of law, in the Office of Wm. E. Curtis, Esq., and was admitted to the Bar in December, 1856. He early exhibited unusual adaptation for the profession he had chosen, and shortly after his admission, entered upon the discussion of questions before the Courts usually entrusted to counsel of mature years. He was not loquacious, but rather erred in the opposite direction, being, sometimes, almost too chary of language fully to express his views; and was never excited or rude, but, on the contrary, always cool, self-possessed and gentlemanly.

He had one unusual talent of great value in his profession, and that was, remarkable facility for committing his thoughts to paper with rapidity and accuracy—often writing, in a clear and legible hand, several successive pages, with uncommon celerity, without an ungrammatical expression, or erasing, altering, or misspelling a

word. Thus qualified, he was, as might well be expected, eminently successful in his profession for a new beginner.

He pursued his profession in the city till October, 1860, when impaired health obliged him to seek a more propitious climate in the West. While on a visit to his parents in December, 1859, he took a cold. Having always enjoyed good health, and fully occupied in his profession, he did not realize the importance of attending to the cold he had taken. A cough ensued, but it was not regarded of sufficient consequence to require attention. The Spring of 1860 came round, and his cough still continued. Having some professional business in Georgia, he made a journey there in March; and, after attending to the business in his charge, spent some time with friends in Augusta. His cough was somewhat abated, though not subdued. In August, 1860, having some business at Lawrence, in Kansas, he went there; and, after spending a few days in the vicinity, went out West on the plains, joined a hunting party, and passed a few weeks in hunting buffalo. In the dry and light atmosphere of the prairies his cough sensibly diminished; but, on his return to the city, his cough also returned with increased violence. In the latter part of October, 1860, he left the city for the prairies of the West, in accordance with eminent medical advice. He passed the following winter in Western Missouri, and mostly in the open air. His health greatly improved, and his cough almost entirely subsided. He regarded himself as well, and determined to establish himself and re-commence the practice of his profession at the West. With that view he went to Red Wing, in Minnesota, early in the Spring of 1861, and determined to fix his residence there. He made arrangements for renewing his professional business, and on the 15th of April was admitted

"as an attorney and counsellor to practice in all the Courts" of the State of Minnesota. Soon after this, the call of the President for Volunteers to suppress the rebellion and sustain the institutions of the country, reached Minnesota. Capt. Foot deemed it his duty, before re-commencing his profession, to aid in this patriotic work. He soon commenced the raising of a company, for which he had been designated as Captain. That having been accomplished, he was commissioned by Governor Ramsay of Minnesota, on the 31st of July, 1861, as Captain of Company I, in the Second Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers. That regiment, after being thoroughly drilled for several months, entered into active service in Kentucky, in October, 1861. It went through an active winter's campaign in that State, and took a prominent part in the battle and victory of Mill Spring, on the 19th of January, 1862. On the 29th of that month Captain Foot was ordered to Minnesota on recruiting service. He repaired to his post of duty, but his health rapidly declining, and being no longer able to serve his country, he was unwilling to be a burthen to it, and on the 24th of February, 1862, offered his resignation, and left Minnesota for his father's residence. He arrived there on the first of March, and expired on the 13th, aged 26 years. His funeral took place and his remains were interred at Geneva, on Sunday afternoon, the 17th of March, 1862.

While he resided in the City of New York, he attended the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church, of which the Rev. Dr. Thomas De Witt is the senior Pastor. He was fully aware of his approaching end, and came to his paternal home to die. The few days which he was allowed to spend there, were passed in gentle and submissive waiting for his approaching end. He was prepared for death, he gave assurance of his trust in his Redeemer,

and died peacefully. His death was not expected so soon. The morning that he died, after devotions in his room, he rose to dress for breakfast. His brother, Alfred, was alone in the room with him. While dressing, he was attacked with an obstruction of respiration. His brother assisted him to his bed. As he lay down, he said to him, in a natural and gentle tone of voice, and in a calm and peaceful manner, "Good bye," and immediately expired.

His character and military services, and the sorrow for his death, will appear in the extracts of letters from sympathizing friends, in obituary notices of him in the public journals, and in the sermon of the Rev. Dr. Wiley, which follow:

From the Rev. Dr. De Witt, to the father of the deceased, March 18, 1862.

"Your eldest son and your first-born has been taken from you, just as he was entering upon life, with the development of a fair and excellent character, and with the promise of usefulness in his future course. His position, as the oldest child in your large family of children, was an interesting and important one; but He who removed him can repair the loss, by making it productive of spiritual and precious fruit to your surviving children. What I knew of John, in the occasional intercourse I had with him, led me to esteem him highly, and to indulge the hope that he would prove a blessing and comfort to his parents and family. But the Lord has taken him to himself, and I trust that the fruit which was forming on earth, is now ripened in Heaven. How beautiful are the words of Paul, in the 12th chapter to the Hebrews, describing the design, process, and fruits of affliction: 'Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous. Nevertheless, afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.' Your son died in a good cause, in patriotic devotion to his country. The good seed, sown under parental, pious care, and in the associations in which he was placed, doubtless lodged in his mind, and opened his soul to Christ and Heaven."

From D. B. Eaton, Esq., to the same. April 8, 1862.*

"On my return from a tour to the West, I have heard, with great pain, of the death of your eldest son, who has fallen a martyr in the service of his country, in the early prime of life. On my tour I met a young Lieutenant of the same regiment as your son, and who was with him in the bloody battle of Somerset. The Lieutenant bore the highest testimony to the courtesy, zeal, and officer-like conduct of Captain Foot, on every occasion, and to his bravery and presence of mind in that battle. There is no young man whose refinement of manners, high, manly tone, and rare moral and intellectual qualities, have won a higher place in my respect and regard."

From Lieut. C. S. Uline, to Lieut. Alfred Foot, brother of the deceased, dated Columbia, Tenn., March 31, 1862.†

"The sad intelligence of the death of Capt. Foot reached us a few days before the receipt of your letter. Our Colonel saw an obituary notice of him in a New York paper. Let me assure you, many a free, happy heart was shrouded with sadness and gloom at the announcement. I made the statement to his late Company, and many, whose hearts have become hardened at death, were moved to tears. During his term of service he had, by his soldierly bearing, his eminent qualities of mind and heart, endeared himself to the regiment, and all feel his loss; but he was especially dear to Company I, who knew him best and loved him most. To them his death is a sore affliction. To his exertions, his indomitable energy, his unerring judgment, his disciplined mind, and perfect self-command, do they owe their present efficiency. None knew Captain Foot but to love and respect him. When the officers of our regiment were examined, he received the highest praise, and he received the only compliment paid our regiment. All knew his powers of endurance were being

* Mr. Eaton boarded in the same house with the deceased, in the City of New York, for several years, and knew him intimately.

† Lieut. Uline was the First Lieutenant of Company I, 2d Minnesota Volunteers, the same Company of which the deceased was Captain.

severely taxed on our march from Lebanon to the battle-ground, but his exuberance of spirits lulled his friends in security, and to a great extent quieted their anxiety. None knew (save one) how fast the poor man was failing. I watched over and cared for him the best I could, and frequently told him 'this is killing you, and you can never endure these exertions and hardships.' But, sir, that man would have died in his tracks, marching on to battle, before he would have given up previous to the fight. Nothing would have induced him to resign or leave us before that. You may be assured that this is sad news to me. No one ever before gained the place in my regard and affection, as did Captain Foot. We lived for seven months as brothers, and I hoped when he left us that, when this war was over, we should meet again, and I should enjoy association with him."

Extract from the Geneva *Courier* of the 19th Feb., 1862:

"We mentioned the other day, soon after the battle at Somerset, Ky., that our fellow-citizen, the Hon. S. A. Foot, had three sons in the present war.

"The oldest, John Foot, is Captain of Company I, in the 2nd Minnesota Volunteers, and was in the hottest of the fight near Somerset. The loss of the regiment in that battle was twelve killed and thirty-three wounded. Captain Foot's Company lost two killed and two wounded—one the Second Lieutenant. Colonel Van Cleve, in giving his report of the battle, states that his entire command (2nd Minnesota) did its duty 'during the severe and close engagement in which they took a part.' Colonel McCook, Acting Brigadier, in his report states, that the 2nd Minnesota were within ten feet of the enemy, and at first the contest was 'almost hand-to-hand—the enemy and the 2nd Minnesota were poking their guns through the same fence at each other.' There are very few instances on record in which officers and soldiers have shown an equal amount of bravery. The rebels could not stand before it. Since this battle and the victory won, Captain Foot has been ordered to Minnesota to recruit for his regiment, which has been reduced by sickness and loss in battle."

Extract of a letter from A. B. Hawley, M. D., to the father of deceased, dated Red Wing, Minn., March 21, 1862:

"The sad intelligence of the death of your son reached me this morning, and I write, not only to give you some details in regard to the few days he spent here with me after his return from Kentucky, but, also, to express my sympathy with you and your family in the loss of one so dear to us all. His death, though sudden, was not unexpected by me. I am confident, from what passed between us, that he was fully aware of his condition. He never said much about his health to any one, but did, on one or two occasions, talk freely to me. I was pained to see how sick he appeared when he returned from Kentucky. He arrived here on Monday, February 10th, and on the 21st, in answer to inqiries I had made the previous evening, asked me to examine his lungs. I did so, and told him they were both badly diseased. He then stated to me, that he had been convinced for some months that he should never recover, and desired to remain here in Minnesota, in the recruiting service, as long as I deemed it safe, but he wished to go home to die. I urged upon him the bad condition of the roads in the Spring, in case the weather should affect him unfavorably. He said he would wait a few days before he decided, but on Sunday evening following, told me he was going the next day.

"I hope these particulars, though painful, will be a satisfaction to you as showing, that though he fully realized his situation, with that consideration he always showed, he dreaded to foreshadow sorrow, which he so well knew you would soon be called upon to bear.

"My professional duties prevented me from being with him while he was here as much as I desired. Our intercourse was always of the most delightful character—I loved him as a brother, and I shall ever cherish the remembrance of our mutual friendship as among the precious memories of my life. His kindly qualities of head and heart had won for him many friends here among us, and no one whom I ever knew was more respected and beloved."

From his Excellency Alexander Ramsay, Governor of Minnesota, to the same, dated St. Paul, March 21, 1862:

"I was pained to learn, by your favor of the 15th inst., of the demise of your son, the late Captain of Company I, in our Second Regiment.

"We had hoped, on his return from the Regiment, after the brilliant engagement at Logan's Cross Roads, in which the Second took, perhaps, the most heroic part, and has rendered its name, and that of every member of it, forever illustrious, that his health, apparently never very robust, would be restored, so he might be spared to us for many years to come.

"Captain Foot had already, on his entering the Military Service of the Country in the hour of its peril, by his urbane, gentlemanly manner, and his well trained mind, made a very favorable impression on the community with which he had cast his lot; and his zeal and perseverance in organizing his Company, at a time when enlistments, owing to the season of the year, were secured with great difficulty, were witnessed with admiration. And, all honor the memory of one, whose patriotism prompted him to devote his life to so noble a cause."

The following Obituary Notice was published in the principal public journals of the City and State of New York:

OBITUARY.

"Died, at the residence of his father, at Geneva, March 13, 1862, John Foot, Esq., of this city, Counsellor at Law, son of Hon. Samuel A. Foot, aged twenty-six. The deceased raised a Company in Minnesota, which he led in the gallant and memorable charge of the Second Minnesota Regiment, at the Battle of Mill Spring. Capt. Foot, broken in constitution by the privations and hardships of the Winter campaign, reached home in time to breathe his last. Distinguished and successful, beyond his years, in his profession; brave and beloved as a soldier—he gave his life to his Country, and his example to his countrymen."

The following appeared in the State paper of Minnesota—"*The Saint Paul Press*,"—March 28, 1862:

DEATH OF CAPT. FOOT.

"It was announced, some weeks since, that Capt. Foot, of Company I, Second Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers, had resigned on account of ill health, and had repaired to his paternal home, in the State of New York. We now have to convey the sad intelligence to his fellow soldiers and to his friends here in Minnesota, that he is no more of earth. The following letter from his father, Judge Foot, a prominent and well known citizen of Ontario County, New York, brings the first intimation of this demise of one of Minnesota's best and bravest soldiers. The citizens of Red Wing, and of Goodhue County generally, where the Captain was best known, will feel, upon reading the letter, that the patriotic and Christian father scarcely does justice to the memory of his accomplished and gallant son. We commend the letter, however, as a specimen of heroic patriotism that we have not seen excelled during the war; and hence we have solicited the privilege, and obtained the liberty of publishing it:

"GENEVA, ONTARIO COUNTY, N. Y., }
"March 15th, 1862. }

"*His Excellency Alexander Ramsay:*

"SIR—It is my painful duty to announce to you the death of my son, JOHN FOOT, late Captain of Company I, in the Second Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers. This deeply afflicting event occurred on the 13th instant. My son reached home on the 1st instant, in extreme ill health, caused by the exposure and fatigue of the Winter's campaign in Kentucky, and the Battle of Mill Spring.

"It is consolatory to me, that his life has been of some service to our Country. He was able to do his part with the brave Regiment of which he was a member, at the Battle of Mill Spring, where the lines of the rebels were first broken, and real success first initiated for the suppression of this most wicked rebellion. Had the life of

my son been spared, his good education, high qualifications for his profession, sound moral principles and gentlemanly manners, would have made him an ornament to the Bar and State of Minnesota. But God's will be done. It seems ordered that this dear son's life must be my contribution for the maintaining of our Government and Institutions.

"If the result sweeps the dreadful Institution of Slavery from our Country, no sacrifice can hardly be counted as too dear.

"Respectfully, your obedient servant,

"SAMUEL A. FOOT."

From the Geneva *Courier*, of March 19, 1862:

FUNERAL OF CAPT. JOHN FOOT, U. S. V.

"We little thought a few weeks since, when giving a brief notice of the three sons of Judge Foot, in the public service, that we would be called to notice so soon the death and funeral of the eldest one. He was able to reach home, and died at his father's on the 13th instant. The Funeral Services were held on Sunday afternoon last, in the Dutch Church of this village, and were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Wiley, the Pastor of the church. Although the day was stormy, the church was crowded with a deeply interested audience. While all the services were appropriate and impressive, the Sermon was especially so. The large audience listened to it with the deepest attention.

Sermon of the Rev. Dr. Wiley.

John xi., 14, 15.—Then said Jesus unto them, plainly, Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sake that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe.

Nothing is more natural in circumstances of recent bereavement than to wish that matters might have been, in some respects, differently arranged and disposed. We not only regret with profound and pungent sorrow the occurrence of death itself, the bereavement that has taken place, but we imagine that things might have been, with wisdom, differently ordered from what they were. In the sensitiveness of a true and tender affection, we are led to ask, with a jealous feeling, whether all has been done that might have been done to intercept the event that has taken place, and we indulge the imaginary idea, that if certain things had happened otherwise than as they did actually happen, the existing sorrow and bereavement might, by possibility, have been deferred or avoided. These are the feelings that naturally hang around us in contemplating the removal of our friends. They are the almost inseparable witness and attendant of a true and tender regret towards those that are called away from us by death. The very first words with which Martha greeted the Saviour on the occasion of the death of Lazarus, were "*Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died;*" attributing the death of her brother apparently to the inopportune or untimely absence of the Saviour. And so we are apt to say, in similar circumstances, if such an event had not transpired, or if such a thing could have been ordained otherwise, the lamented issue or occurrence might have been different to what it

is; as if the Providence of God did not extend to all the circumstances of our personal bereavements and afflictions, as if Divine Wisdom did not order *all the antecedents* of death as well as the regretted event itself; as if it were not true of the Saviour's agency here in all its particulars, as well as in other departments of his action, that "*He doeth all things well.*" The narrative with which the text is connected, is highly instructive and consolatory in this very respect. It presents the Saviour before us as having so intimate a relation to the sickness and death of Lazarus in all the circumstances of it, as to be highly soothing and tranquilizing to those that are called to similar trials. He distinctly anticipates the occurrence. He hovers near the scene where it transpired, and if He does not actually interpose to prevent it, it is for reasons of wisdom that are after made fully to appear. There are two thoughts in particular suggested by the narrative, on which I desire to dwell at the present time, as being in harmony with the present occasion; thoughts that are fitted to convey a deeply consolatory impression to the mind, under the sense of the recent loss and removal of endeared relatives and friends.

I. The first thought that is prompted by the narrative before us, is, that *the Saviour is thoroughly cognizant of the sickness of our kindred and friends, and fully anticipates the issue and event of their disorders.*

We recognize this truth as a matter of theoretical conviction, as being necessarily connected with the divine and superior nature which Christ possesses. He, who in common with the Father, notices the fall of the sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our heads, we may be sure, is not unapprised of what is transpiring in the way of sickness and death within the circles of our households.

But how much more vivid and distinct does this truth appear in the light of the simple narrative before us? We

have here a living and practical exemplification of it. The sisters of Bethany, indeed, in their anxiety and solicitude, and also from a feeble faith in the Saviour's omniscience, send to inform the Master of the sickness of their brother. But it was an unnecessary and gratuitous errand, for Christ already knew of it. It was upon his mind as a matter of distinct and thoughtful contemplation. He notes with accuracy, as is apparent from the record itself, the progress of the disorder, and after the lapse of two days, He says to His disciples, with the quiet assurance of one whom nothing could surprise, "*Our friend Lazarus sleepeth, but I go that I may awake him out of sleep,*" and immediately bent His steps, that had hitherto lingered by the way, towards Judea, and towards the home of the afflicted household. Who can fail to see in this narrative a practical exemplification of the fact, that the Saviour is *intimately cognizant* of what transpires in the way of sickness, and suffering, and death, within the circle of our kindred. What was true of the family of Bethany is true of *all the families of Israel.* He who is the Great High Priest of our profession, who took part of our infirmities, who bore our sicknesses and carried our sorrows, we may be assured, is not unmindful of the domestic troubles and afflictions of His people. He knows and notes the sicknesses of our kindred, and not a thing that transpires, not a circumstance that takes place, is hidden from the observation of His benignant eye. In the day of our calamity we may be ready to say with the Psalmist, "*Why standest thou afar off, O Lord? Why hidest thou thyself in time of trouble?*" and when Death actually intervenes, we may exclaim with the sisters of Bethany, "*Lord, if thou hadest been here, my brother had not died.*" But these are either the natural expressions of a true and tender solicitude and affection, or they are the indications of a weak and imperfect faith, that fails to recognize the ever-present eye,

the ever-watchful Providence of our Divine and benignant Lord and Master in all our affairs.

Yes, it is a most consolatory thought, that the Saviour knows perfectly the sickness and departure of our kindred in all their circumstances—in what is done and what is omitted, in what seems propitious and in what seems to be untoward and undesirable—in everything, He is completely informed, and his benignant Providence is most intimately concerned.

II. The other prominent thought suggested by the narrative before us is, that *where the Saviour does not interpose to intercept the death of our relatives and friends, He omits to do so for the most wise and sufficient reasons.* He withholds His healing and restoring hand in the exercise of a true, though sometimes an inscrutable wisdom.

This is a very simple truth, but at the same time full of consolation to those who are able to realize its import. Ordinarily, it is too far out of our reach to be brought clearly within our comprehension and intelligence. We have to wait the developments and issues of Eternity before we are able to get any palpable view of the wisdom of the Divine dispensations, especially in the form of bereavement and affliction. But how clear and instructive does this truth appear in the light of the narrative before us. We see that Lazarus was permitted to die for reasons of Divine wisdom, and these reasons are actually disclosed to us in the after-development of the narrative. It doubtless sounded strange to the disciples, what our Saviour said to them in announcing, in anticipation, the death of Lazarus: "*Then said Jesus unto them, plainly, Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sake that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe.*" It must have been a mystery, certainly, to them, how the Saviour could express himself thus cheerfully and confidently with regard to an occurrence whose natural aspect

is usually one only of sorrow and distress. But when they followed him to the scene of the affliction itself, and witnessed what transpired at the tomb of Lazarus, when they saw the dead come forth at the word of Jesus, and a new halo of glory to surround the person of their Master, and a new attestation to authenticate and signalize the truth of His mission, when they beheld the earnest and pledge of the Resurrection and future life in the resuscitation of the person of Lazarus—the brother of Bethany and the friend of Jesus—and saw the palpable proof of the power of Him who declared "*I am the Resurrection and the Life*," then the mystery of Christ's words was explained, and the wisdom was vindicated of that dispensation that permitted the death of Lazarus.

It is, doubtless, true, that *we* are seldom permitted to see for ourselves the wisdom of such dispensations, *for we walk now by faith and not by sight.* But that wisdom is less *real* in all similar cases of death and bereavement. If Christ does not interpose to prevent the departure and removal of our kindred and friends, we know that he omits to do so for the wisest and best of reasons—reasons not now discernable to us, but that shall have their development at least in the future life.

We *know* that this is so; we have the pledge of it in the little that we are permitted to witness of the ways of Providence. We have an epitome and illustration of it in the narrative before us. It is as certain as that God's benignant Providence and the Saviour's gracious rule and dominion are connected with all that transpires amidst these earthly scenes.

These reflections, my brethren, are appropriate to be made in all the cases that occur of personal bereavement and domestic sorrow. They are especially suitable to be indulged in the instances of premature or early death, or where, in any respect, darkness and mystery seem to

hang around the Divine dispensation. It is soothing to think, in the hour of calamity and bereavement, that the Saviour knows our sorrows, that He is present and intimately acquainted with the sicknesses, and sufferings, and death of our friends, and that He withholds His hand from their relief only in the exercise of a wisdom and benignity that will be made fully conspicuous at last.

This whole narrative, in fact, is full of consolation and support to the afflicted and bereaved in the assurance and witness it gives of the presence, and nearness, and interest of the Saviour amidst our domestic sorrow. And when the finale of the whole is brought out to view, and the Saviour appears in His proper majesty and power as the Resurrection and the Life, what a glory crowns the scene! What a celestial light irradiates the whole! We seem to antedate the hour of the Resurrection, and to have the future life already brought into being and reality in the resuscitation of the risen Lazarus from the Dead.

I cannot be mistaken in supposing, that it is with more than usual sensations of sorrow and regret, that we are met together on the present occasion. The shadow of death—premature and unanticipated death—is resting darkly upon our assembly. Youth, cut off in its early promise and hopeful development, suddenly intercepted on the very threshold of active life—*parental hopes* long and fondly entertained and just bidding fair to be fully realized in a useful and honorable career, blighted and dissipated by the touch of death—the ties of kindred and the associations of friendship unexpectedly dissolved and broken asunder—the silent form of the dead—the subdued and thoughtful congregation of friends and spectators—these are the features that compose the present scene—these are the circumstances under which we are called together to-day.

Surely we need to take refuge in the persuasion of God's

wise and benignant Providence as being concerned in our affairs. We need to recognize the presence and agency of the same Almighty Saviour, who, while on earth, mingled in the scenes of Bethany, and gave the most consolatory tokens of his concern and sympathy in our domestic sorrows.

HISTORY AND CHARACTER OF THE DECEASED.

As the death which has taken place has about it a character of public interest, from the personal relations of the deceased to the service of the country—as the proximate causes of it are to be traced directly, if not exclusively, to the perils and exposures of the camp, and of the battle-field—it seems to be only appropriate and fitting that some specific reference should be made to the brief and highly honorable career of our departed friend—one among the many soldiers and active supporters of Constitutional Liberty in the land. Such a reference can hardly fail to be attended with a salutary lesson to the young, and to those that are emulous of public virtue.

Capt. John Foot, of the United States Volunteer Army, whose obsequies we are now attending, was the eldest son of his esteemed parents, the Hon. Samuel A. and Jane Campbell Foot, members of our church and community. He was born in the City of New York, in the year 1835, if I mistake not, but passed, with his parents, in his boyhood, to this place to reside. Here he spent the earlier years of his life, preserving a reputable and unblemished character during this period, and conciliating the esteem, and winning the regards of all who knew him, as well as his more immediate friends and companions. After suitable preliminary preparation, he became a member, I believe, of Williams' College, in Massachusetts; from which institution, in due time, he graduated with credit and suc-

cess. After the completion of his academic course, he entered upon the study of the law, and was at length duly admitted as a Member of the Bar. He soon commenced the practice of the law in the City of New York, under very favorable auspices, and had begun already to realize, from his steady and successful labors in his profession, highly lucrative and profitable returns, when he was suddenly arrested by the hand of incipient disease, and compelled to relinquish the plans and prospects that had begun to open so auspiciously before him. He betook himself, under medical advice, to the Western part of our Country, in search of a propitious climate; and, after a brief interval of time, spent, I think, mostly in Missouri, he finally settled in one of the prosperous and rising towns of Minnesota. Here he very rapidly regained his health, or seemed to do so, and arranged to commence anew the practice of the law, with flattering prospects of prosperity and success. But, now a new career is suddenly opened before him, and with it a new and unusual interest attaches itself to his personal history. The standard of Rebellion had been lifted up in the land. Treason and insubordination, without even plausible grounds to support them, were aiming to subvert the Constitution of our Fathers, and to involve everything in reckless confusion and anarchy. The call of the Government sounded out, summoning to its aid the spontaneous support of Patriot Volunteers, and thousands were flocking to uphold the imperilled interests of public order, and to vindicate the time-honored, but insulted Flag of the Union. It was a call not to be resisted by one who had been carefully educated in the principles of Constitutional Liberty and Order, and who inherited something of the Spirit of the Fathers of the Revolution. Young Foot felt and responded to the patriotic and generous impulse. With no reasons of personal need, or other constraint to operate upon his mind; with prudential considerations aris-

ing out of a scarcely re-established health to check and restrain him, he yet seemed to have regarded the call of the Country as imperative and obligatory. With no other motives, apparently, than such as were supplied by the ardor of youthful enterprise and the promptings of a patriotic spirit, he entered the service of the country as a Captain of Volunteers; and when his Regiment was ordered to Kentucky, the scene, at that time, of most perilous civil conflict and commotion, he promptly followed with it the fortunes of the war. I need not describe to you the public features of that campaign. They are so recent as to be entirely familiar to you all. The series of brilliant successes, that have crowned the Arms of the Union in that section of the Country, began with the battle of Mill Spring, in which the Regiment to which young Foot belonged bore a most gallant and conspicuous part. With the successful issue of that first conflict on the soil of Kentucky, commenced the happy turn of events that seem destined to culminate, ere long, in the complete restoration of the power of the Union. But, in the meantime, the personal and private experience of Captain Foot discloses a sad but most heroic record, that remains to be briefly told.

The humidity of the climate, the exposures of the camp, and the toils of the march, began to show their effects very sensibly upon his feeble constitution, and it very soon became apparent to him that his health was likely to be totally undermined. But how could he retire from the service at this most critical juncture? How could prudential considerations be listened to when the enemy was just at hand? Every thought of self, every considerate regard to health had to give way to the point of honor, and to the impulse of patriotism. Think of the quiet and uncomplaining heroism that could still go forward in such circumstances as these! Think of the weary and protracted march, the broken rest, the unavoidable and perpetual ex-

posure to wind and weather, with an enfeebled and manifestly sinking constitution! Think of the excitement and tumult of the battle that ensued, and of the word of military command still continuing to issue firmly and steadily from attenuated lips, and from a breast already weakened and wasted by the ravages of disease. It was not until all these things were gone through, and the army returned, successful and victorious to the camp, that our youthful soldier felt himself at liberty to turn his attention to himself. Oh! is there not a record here of unobtrusive and silent heroism, that demands to be known and to be appreciated? What can we do less in regard to the youthful volunteers, that have entered the service of the Country at the present imminent crisis, than to bear them upon our prayers to the throne of grace while they live, and to preserve some grateful memorial of their patriotism and sacrifices when they come to die.

The sequel of our personal narrative can be very briefly told. It *is* told, indeed, more eloquently than words can do it, in the silent remains that lie before us. Captain Foot returned to Minnesota, under instructions to recruit his Regiment, with the faint hope that his declining health might yet be retrieved. This hope was, however, soon extinguished, and unwilling to be a burthen to a cause which he was no longer able to serve, he at once offered to relinquish his commission, and with all the expedition his failing strength permitted, he betook himself to the home and refuge of his early childhood; and here a few days of rapid decline terminated a life already shattered and broken by the severities of the recent campaign. He expired amid the solaces and supports of earthly friendship and love, leaving behind him, to his surviving kindred, the sad but proud recollection, that he spent his last strength, firmly and faithfully, in the service of the country. His earthly record is, that he lived an unblemished

life, and died virtually and really a voluntary sacrifice to the noble cause of Constitutional Freedom and Order. His religious record, besides embracing precious reminiscences, appreciable only to the eye and perception of domestic and private love, is, that he died a child of the baptismal covenant, and a child of parental prayer and hope, giving, as his last utterance, an affirmative response to the proffers and promises of a Saviour's grace, presented to him by the lips of maternal affection and faith.

> How blest are they whose transient years,
> Pass like an evening meteor's flight;
> Not dark with guilt, nor dim with tears,
> Whose course is short, unclouded, bright!

CONCLUSION.

I cannot conclude without a brief admonition to the young men who are here present. I would say in a single word, young men, *ennoble life by honorable action!* Remember that it is not the length of life, but the faithful fulfilment of its high duties, that is the true and real ground of felicitation.

> Nor love thy life, nor hate, but what thou livest,
> *Live well*, how long or short permit by Heaven.

I would say especially, make clear, and bright, and legible, *your religious record.* Be soldiers of the country if need be, in her present urgent perils; but above all, be Soldiers of the Cross. The kingdom of Christ shall survive all other kingdoms. It shall conquer death and the grave. It has brilliant crowns and unfading laurels for all its true and loyal subjects.

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